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Take Off The Blinders

By Roger D. Reed

(Romans 1:16 KJV) **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”**

The number one thing Christians should not close their eyes unto (putting blinders on) is their responsibility to share the gospel message to the lost- we have failed in this. Are we ashamed of it? As Paul clearly points out, he was not! He goes on to say why he is not ashamed in the next verse (Romans 1:17 KJV) **“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”**

In these closing verses of chapter 1, Paul explains how the Gentiles got into the awful darkness that engulfs them and how God’s wrath was revealed against them. Note the steps downward in Gentile history as we turn our attention to the rest of the chapter (Romans 1:18-32 KJV) **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**

Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

We see that **“They knew God”** (vv. 18-20). God had given them a twofold revelation of Himself “in them” (conscience) and “unto them” (creation), (v. 19). Man did not begin with ignorance and gradually work his way up to intelligence; he began with a blazing revelation of the power and wisdom of God and turned his back on it. God had revealed Himself from the very time of creation, so that people who have never heard the Gospel are still without excuse.

It is my belief that America is failing in not calling sin what it is and has pushed that doctrine aside for political correctness. Many of God’s elect (many that say they’re saved are not) do not want to hear about Hell, the Lake of Fire, or sin. I thank God for the folks He has given me and that I am at liberty to preach the whole counsel of God. About 140 years ago Charles Haddon Spurgeon who preached during the last quarter of the 1800’s had this to say, *“Everywhere there is apathy (indifference, unconcern). Nobody cares whether that which is preached is true or false. A sermon is a sermon whatever the subject; only, the shorter it is, the better.”* He also so stated, *“If we would have the presence of God, it is necessary that we should be agreed with Him. We must be agreed with God as to the end of our Christian existence. God hath formed us for Himself that we may show forth His praise.”* A man I worked with asked me one time, “how long do you preach” (I cannot count the number of times I’ve been asked that question along with how big is your congregation). When I answer 35-45 minutes for a sermon, you’d think they were going to have a heart attack. The man then replied; the best sermon he had ever heard was 10 minutes long. That beloved is the attention span of most church-goers today. I would guess that anything longer would put him to sleep.

I marvel at the lack of fear the saved...and unsaved have toward a Holy, Sovereign God (Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV) **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”** But men everywhere scoff at this verse. Why, I have even seen men snicker at this verse, supposedly saved men.

This brings me to my next point. **“They glorified Him not as God”** (vv. 21-23). Vain thinking and foolish reasoning turned men from the truth to lies. We see indifference leading to ingratitude, resulting in ignorance. People today bow before the Greek and Roman philosophers and honor their words above the Word of God; but Paul calls all of these philosophies “empty imaginations” and “times of ignorance” (Acts 17:30-31 KJV) **“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”** The next step was idolatry, honoring the creature (including man)

rather than the Creator. They put blinders on and did not want to adhere to the truth.

“They changed the truth of God” (vv. 24-25). This word “changed” the thought also of “exchanged.” People replaced God’s truth with Satan’s lie! What is Satan’s lie? 1) Worshiping the creature and not the Creator. 2) Worshiping man instead of God. 3) Worshiping things instead of Christ. Satan tempted Christ to do this (Matthew 4:8-11). Note that in Romans 1:18, the Gentiles “held down the truth,” and now they “exchange the truth” for a lie! The truth believed and obeyed sets us free (John 8:31-32 KJV) **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**; The truth rejected and disobeyed makes us slaves.

They rejected the knowledge of God (vv. 26-32). These people had begun with a clear knowledge of God (vv. 19, 21) and His judgment against sin (v. 32); but now they reached the lowest level of their downward fall: they did not even want to have knowledge of God! (Psalms 14:1 KJV) **“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”** It is sad to see the tragic results of this decline. Evolutionists want us to believe that humans have “evolved” from primitive, ignorant, beast-like forms into the marvelous creature they are today. This is what the Evolutionists want you to believe: *“I was a tadpole when I began to begin, then I was a frog with my tail tucked in, then I was a monkey in a coconut tree, and now I’m a man with a Ph.D.”* And many have put blinders on and say, why can’t there be both!

Paul says just the opposite: man began the highest of God’s creatures, but he made himself into a beast! Note the three judgments of God: God gave them up to uncleanness and idolatry, (vv. 24-25). 1) God gave them over to vile passions, (vv. 26-27). 2) God gave them over to a reprobate mind, (v. 28ff). 3) God gave them up! This is the revelation of the wrath of God (v. 18). The sins listed here are too vile to define or discuss, yet they are practiced today around the world with the approval of society. People know that sin will be judged, yet they take pleasure in it anyway.

This is the point I would like to make. Christians have put on Blinders and say if they are not hurting me or if I don’t have to see it that I don’t care what they do. We are being pressured into being politically correct and need to change what we believe...NEVER. I will die preaching the truth and NO paper president or Clinton will force me to do differently. Where is your allegiance fellow Christian? What are you afraid of? We would better fear what God can do and not man.

These things that Paul mentions here are sin just plain, flat out sin and God is not pleased, yet we have allowed them to infiltrate our world, our life, our schools, our homes, and the work place and even churches. If you embrace any of these that Paul condemns with the mentality that if Jesus were here he would take them in and forgive them, then you’re living in a dream world. Yes Jesus will save them if they are the elect of God (John 6:37 KJV)

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” But there must be a change in that person’s life if they are truly saved. We don’t embrace sin and think it’s alright to co-exist with the unrighteous. They have to stop their filthy life style and repent from their evil ways or they are not truly saved, they can’t have it both ways. Were it not for the Gospel of Christ, we would be in this slavery to sin ourselves. **“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift”** (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Beloved remember the wretch you were before you were saved? Are you still living that life today as a child of God? Someone might answer, “Yes nothing has changed”. Then you have a very serious problem and according to the Bible you’re not saved (Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV) **“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”**

To embrace the lifestyle of these wicked and unrighteous people would be like me saying I liked my old life before I was saved and I miss those days as a teenager and early 20’s when I would get so drunk, I puked my guts up, oh yes I really miss those days. See how silly that all sounds? But that is exactly what they want us to do. Not this preacher, beloved! As C.H. Spurgeon wrote “Turn or Burn”!

Back in the mid 70’s my first pastor stated that the world was so messed up that our young people will grow up and spell “Relief” R-O-L-A-I-D-S! He wasn’t being funny though at the time I thought it to be quite humorous, but not anymore. At that time there was a commercial that ask “how do you spell relief” (talking about heartburn) and they would spell relief R-O-L-A-I-D-S! I always wonder what he would think if he could see the world today.

So, throw off the Blinders that are covering your eyes and call their vile and awful sin what it is, don’t back down! Preachers, preach it like it is your last sermon and tell the world of the Holy One of God who can save sinners from total destruction. The world hates this, but love the sinner and hate their sin (Philippians 4:7 KJV) **“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”** God Bless!